NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

Bury.—The project of a Museum for Bury and West Suffolk is assuming a hopeful aspect. A site and a design have been obtained, and several good subscriptions have been got. The Marquis of Bristol has given 100*l.*, and the Bishop of London, 10*l.* The necessary sum, 1,500*l.*, it is proposed to raise by donations and by 5*l.* shares, transferrable, and giving the holder an interest in the property of the Museum, and a right of admission for himself, his family, and friends, by a yearly payment of 10*s.*, commutable for a single payment of 5*l.* additional.

Windsor.—The Castle approaches are in progress of improvement, and the last pile of old Datchet-bridge has been removed.

Hastings.—Mr. W. J. Gant has deposited at the office of the Town Clerk the town-plan which he had engaged to make, first at the instance of the Hastings commissioners, and finally on behalf of the Local Board of Health. The plan is drawn out on ten sheets, each sheet measuring 3 feet 1 inch by 2 feet, the total space occupied thus exceeding 60 square feet. The survey goes much into detail: in addition to the out-buildings, sheds, &c. it shows whether the yards, areas, thoroughfares, &c. are paved with stone or brick, or whether they are unpaved. It also shows the rain-water-pipes, sinks, and pumps; likewise the pipes conveying the water supply, and the locality of the water closets. Thus the sanitary condition of every house is exhibited at a glance. The scale of the map is 44 feet to the inch, or 10 feet to a mile.

Southampton.—A new map of Southampton and its suburban districts, based on the Ordnance Survey, and inclusive of the latest improvements and alterations has been brought out by Mr. Philip Brannon, of Southampton. Each street, road, and footpath is shown, and also all the public buildings, boundaries of borough and parishes, public lands, sites of old town, walls, and castle, ancient Roman station of Clausentum, and remains and sites of antiquarian and historical importance. The outlying districts of Shirley, Portswood, Woodmill, Bitterne, &c. are also given.

Buxton.—New baths are in course of erection at Buxton, by direction of the Duke of Devonshire, and at a cost of 5,000*l.*

Plymouth.—Of the 60,000*l.* required for the projected Great Western Docks, nearly 10,000*l.* it is said, have already been applied for, over and above the expected subscriptions of the associated railway companies. At a recent preliminary meeting of the shareholders it was resolved that public meetings of the inhabitants of Plymouth and the adjoining towns should be held, for the purpose of promoting the completion of the Docks, and that the Mayors of Plymouth and Devonport, and the magistrates of Stonehouse, be requested to convene such meetings at their earliest convenience.

Abergavenny.—The Joint Counties Asylum was opened for the reception of patients on the 1st ult., and a proportion of the pauper patients from the joint counties of Monmouth, Hereford, Brecon, and Radnor have been received. The style of the building is Early English, and is from the designs of Messrs. Fulljames and Warren, of Gloucester, under whose directions the works have been carried out by their clerk of works. The building is capable of accommodating 250 patients, and the cost, inclusive of gas-works, was 25,000*l.* The warming and ventilating were by Messrs. Haden, of Trowbridge, and the officers' apartments were furnished by Messrs. Trapnall and Sons, of Bristol. There are six male and six female wards.

Denbigh.—A new ward for eight or ten patients, with a new laundry, washhouse, storeroom, and other general offices, have been added to the Denbigh Infirmary. The new building was planned by Mr. Parson, and the work performed by Mr. Bartley, builder. It is in uniformity with the rest of the building. There is still wanted a tank for the supply of soft water to the establishment, as not one-sixth part of the rain water is now collected.

Bangor.—The extensive plant of machinery lately erected by the Royal Slate Company, at their quarries on Brynhafod-y-wern, near Bangor, has been permanently set to work. This machinery has been invented and constructed by Mr. Dixon, the company's resident manager and engineer, for the purpose of sawing and facing slate slabs, and of manufacturing a variety of articles from slates; the several processes being secured by patent. The machinery occupies a building with a ground area of upwards of 10,000 feet, and is set in motion by three water-wheels and a steam-engine. The wheel just completed has its gearing unitable with the gearing of the steam-engine, so that one power can assist the other—or the machinery can be driven by either, as the case may require. The machinery was constructed by Mr. Owen Thomas, of Carnarvon.

Cardiff.—No less than eighty-one pieces of land were taken on the Bute estate, in the short time of one week, for cottages, 16 feet frontage and 25 to 26 feet back. These cottages cost from 125*l.* to 130*l.* a-piece, and bring in 15*l.* rent per annum, at a ground-rental of 2*l.* per annum a house, which it will be seen pays ten per cent.—no bad "spec" it may be thought, for many houses are occupied before finished, the demand for them is so great here: they have been known to be taken the very day the foundations have been laid, so it may be inferred that there is a fine field for speculators in Cardiff.

Sheffield.—That the working classes of Sheffield have of late been in a prosperous condition is very clearly shown, according to the *Sheffield Independent*, by the accounts of the Sheffield Savings' Bank for the year ending 20th November, 1851. Notwithstanding the large expenditure of the artisan class in their visits to the Great Exhibition, and the sums invested by them in numerous freehold land societies, building societies, &c., the savings' bank deposits show the large increase over the previous year of 15,669*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*, the amount of deposits being—in 1850, 54,862*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*; and in 1851, 70,032*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.* The number of depositors in 1850 was 8,346; in 1851, 10,033, showing an increase of 1,687. As contrasted with 1849, the amount of deposits shows a still further increase.

Nottingham.—The following are the first year's statistics of the Nottingham Public Baths and Washhouses, ending Dec. 13th, 1851:—first quarter bathers, 3,367; second, 11,057; third, 14,391; fourth, 3,562: total, 32,377. First quarter washers, 916; second, 799; third, 708; fourth, 735: total, 3,148. There are six small baths for females, six for males, and a large swimming bath. Four new first-class baths and another swimming-bath will be ready for opening on new year's day.——It is proposed to establish a midland observatory at Nottingham, on the basis of an offer of a valuable collection of apparatus made by Mr. E. J. Lowe, M.R.A.S., on the part of Mr. H. Lawson, of Bath. Besides the instruments, which cost 10,000*l.*, Mr. Lawson is ready to contribute a thousand guineas in furtherance of the object, the conditions being that the corporation or the public build or provide an observatory, with a garden, and an income of 200*l.* a year for a resident observer. Would not this be a good opportunity for settling the question of the uniformity of time, if it is to be reduced to uniformity for Britain, so as to derange the average time of the island as little as possible, by the establishment of an observatory for the purpose in the *midland* district, in place of the much grosser absurdity, exposed by us, of making it noon at Bristol or Liverpool the instant that the sun reaches his noontide meridian at Greenwich? If there must be uniformity of time throughout the country, British time might fairly enough be regulated by *midland* time, so that the whole nation might conspire in declaring it noon throughout Britain so soon as the sun reached his meridian altitude in the heart of the land, and not a moment sooner.

Todmorden.—A project for the erection of a town-hall here has been revived, according to the *Blackburn Standard*. A new committee has been elected, and several new shares taken up. The building is to be erected on the site of the Athenæum, and the market is to occupy the ground floor of the building.

Everton.—A new church is about to be erected at Everton, near Liverpool, on a site presented by J. G. Morris, Esq., at a cost of about 4,000*l.* Six architects were invited to send plans: the design of Mr. Raffles Brown, of Liverpool, has been selected by the committee. The church will be of the Late Decorated period, and will consist of chancel and chancel aisle, nave, north and south aisles, north and south transepts, south porch and tower at west end of nave, crowned with pinnacles, and pierced parapet, and surmounted by a spire rising to the height of 150 feet. There will be galleries in the tower and transepts. Total accommodation for 1,260 worshippers.

Edinburgh.—The committee of the Jeffrey Monument having a surplus out of the fund required for the public statue on which Mr. Steele is at present engaged, devoted it to the erection of a monument over the grave at the cemetery of Dean, which has been completed. The design is by Mr. Playfair, and is of extreme simplicity. There is on it a medallion portrait by Steele. The medallion, like the rest of the structure, is of fine free stone, of a pure white colour.

Dunfermline.—The ancient abbey church, in which many years since the remains of King Robert the Bruce were found, is said to have a disagreeable echo, to remove which an unsightly boarding was long ago set up behind the pulpit. The *Fife Herald* declares that this eyesore serves no good purpose, and recommends its removal. "All cheap methods of obviating the echo," it remarks, "have been tried. Glass is now cheap enough: why not cover in the dome? Try the effect with canvass first: if that will not do we should despair of the church ever being rendered good for hearing. All cruciform churches partake, more or less, of the same fault; and Dunfermline Abbey stands pre-eminent for its echo. It is a pity that so fine a structure should be comparatively useless, if a few hundred pounds would cure the deficiency."

Guernsey.—Government has consented, says the *Jersey Times*, to erect, at its own cost, a lighthouse on the western coast of Guernsey, on the Hanois, if the expense of maintenance, which is not to exceed 900*l.* per annum, be borne by the islands of Guernsey and Jersey conjointly.

CHURCH BUILDING AND RESTORATION.

Pakenham (Suffolk).—The additions and restorations in the church (except the chancel belonging to a lay impropriator), are now complete. They have been done at the expense of the late Lord Calthorpe and the parish, aided by the Incorporated Society, under the superintendence of Mr. Teulon. The south transept, traces of which still existed, has been restored to its original dimensions, and a corresponding transept erected on the north side. The church originally was Norman. The nave has been newly roofed, after the manner of the roof found there, being polygonal in its framework. All the walls have been refaced with flint; the porch (on the north side) rebuilt; the windows and doors within the tower completely restored; a new belfry-floor has been inserted, and polychromatic decoration introduced upon it. The new seatings, which are all oak, are after the manner of Stanton Harcourt, and the pulpit and desk bear the same character. The works have been carried out by Messrs. Baldistone and Son, of Ipswich.

Wetheringsett (Suffolk).—The chancel of the church has undergone complete restoration, at the sole expense of the rector, the Rev. Robert Moore (a grandson of the late Archbishop Moore). The chancel is of noble proportions: it has a very peculiar sedilia of Early English, executed in a grey stone, with shafts of Purbeck marble: this has been restored. All the windows, which are Perpendicular, have also been restored, or rather reproduced; together with the priest's door. The antient paneled oak roof has, with the stall-seats (which are of very bold character), been carefully reframed and restored. A reredos of plain arcading in Caen stone, with the decalogue and texts

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